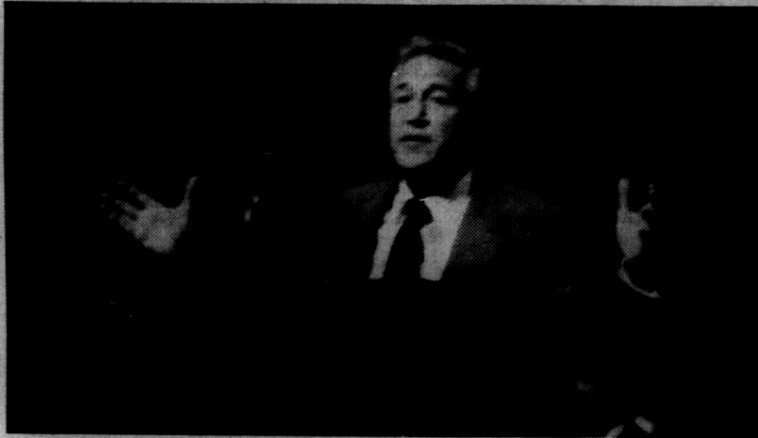


The Baptist Record

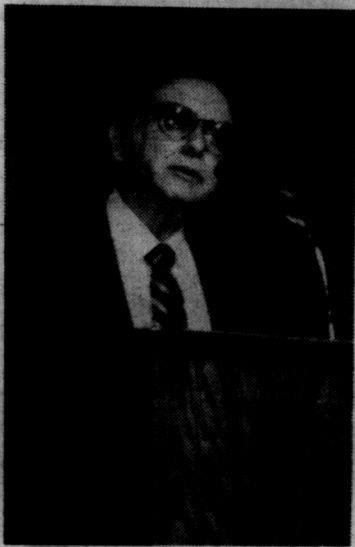
JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 25, 1989

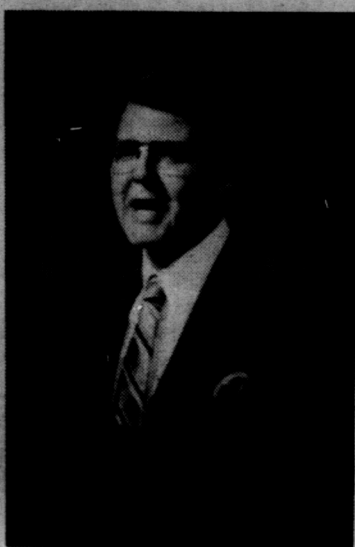
Published Since 1877



Robert Hamblin, Tupelo



James Griffith, Georgia



Frank Gunn, Biloxi



The Mississippi Singing Churchmen accompanied themselves on the handbells during the Gulfshore dedication service, May 12-13. They were directed by Milfred Valentine.

Gulfshore Assembly dedication draws hundreds to Gulf Coast for music, inspiration, picnic



Above, participants at the Gulfshore dedication were treated to a barbeque on the grounds at the end of the Saturday program, finishing lunch only minutes before a downpour started. Below, Frank Simmons, Gulfshore manager, presents Earl Kelly, executive director of the MBCB, with a dedication weekend tee-shirt especially made for the occasion.



Lew King, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, plays his original composition, "Let This Mind Be in You."



Rocky Henriques, Clarksdale



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
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Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Made of good stuff

This year as we gather in Las Vegas for the Southern Baptist Convention, we enter our 11th year of intense controversy. Perhaps it is to our credit that we have been able to survive such strife for so long. Evidently we are made of good stuff.

And as we go into this new decade of the fuss, there may be those who have difficulty remembering what it is all about. It would be nice if the second decade could be marked by peace, harmony, and cooperative efforts to the extent that the first decade was marked by division.

SBC President Jerry Vines says that the theological aspects of the controversy have been solved. And that certainly could well be the case. There never was much difference, if any, from a theological standpoint anyway. Possibly the extreme elements of the strife on both sides housed some differences in theology, but very few people have been involved from a percentage standpoint.

No doubt there are those who peg the problems on differences in theology. But that doesn't explain the effort to decimate the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. It does not operate on theological considerations unless one takes the position that the separation of church and state is theological. Certainly it is scriptural.

A majority of the members of the Public Affairs Committee, which constitutes the Southern Baptist membership on the Baptist Joint Committee, has been trying

desperately to cripple the Baptist Joint Committee.

And one can only wonder why.

The PAC has complained that the BJC has not followed the Southern Baptist Convention's wishes as expressed in resolutions, but such is not the case. There have been complaints that the BJC did not take a stand in opposition to abortion, but that does not fall under the BJC's sphere of action. Just recently there was a resolution considered by the PAC on child-care legislation until it was explained that child care is not a subject properly addressed by the PAC.

Perhaps the strangest situation of all came with the announcement of the resignation from the PAC of Les Csorba, who is the son-in-law of Paul Pressler, principal architect of the "conservative" design. Csorba noted that he was resigning because he had been named as deputy to the special assistant to President Bush for public liaison. He then set up a White House briefing with his new boss, Doug Wead, who told the members of the PAC that it was a part of his job to see that Southern Baptists received their fair share of tax monies back from the government.

Hopefully the members of the PAC replied, "No, thank you." We surely don't need any tax money flowing into the coffers of the Southern Baptist Convention. That is the first principle of the separation of church and state. Not only should the money not come flowing in as a matter of principle, but

also it is inevitable that with the acceptance of public money comes control by the government.

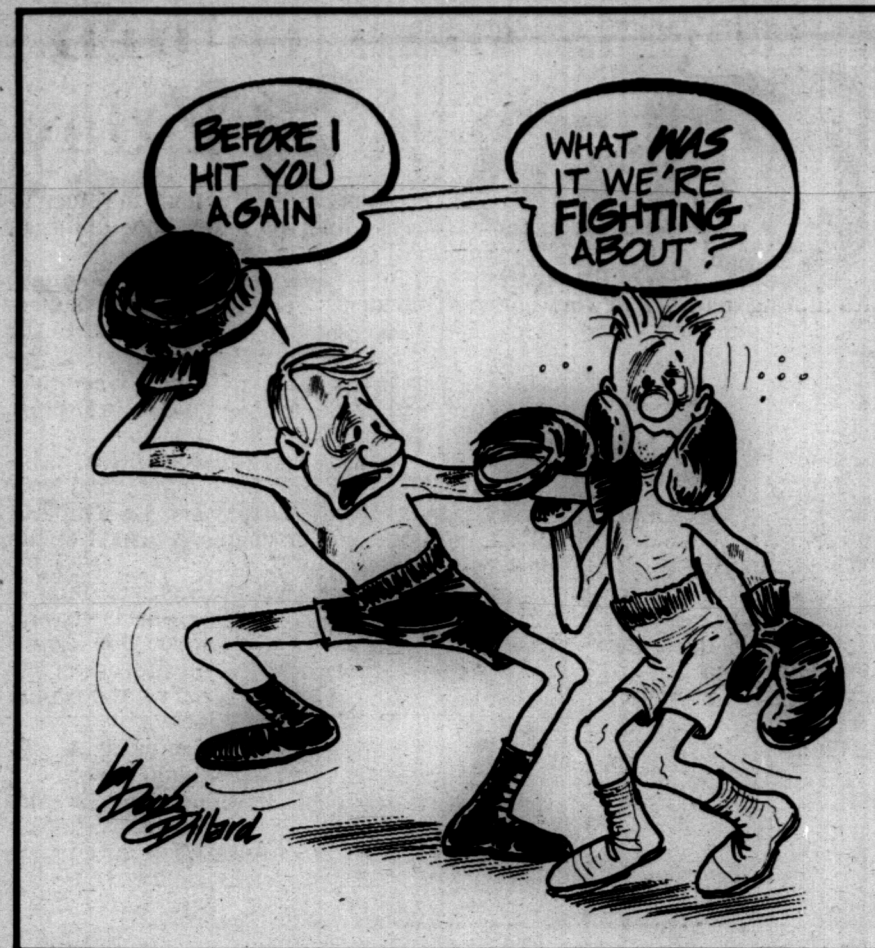
In its effort to dismantle the Baptist Joint Committee, the SBC Executive Committee has voted to propose to the convention that a new agency be formed to represent Southern Baptists in Washington. It would be called the Religious Liberty Commission, for which it is estimated that from \$500,000 to \$750,000 annually would be needed.

There are three things wrong. First, it would cause a fight at Las Vegas, a place where we don't need to be battling. Second, it would take away almost that amount of money from missions organizations, for there is no provision in the budget to get the new agency started. Third, we don't need another representative group in Washington. Though there are some who want to infuse the nation with our brand of morality through governmental regulation and feel that the BJC is not promoting that concept, the BJC has done a magnificent job for 52 years of helping to keep church and state separate.

President Vines has asked the Executive Committee to defer its proposal for this convention. Hopefully it will and then forget about it.

This will be a very important convention. The battle lines are drawn, but many don't know where they are. They don't want to fight anyway. Neither does President Vines.

Let's honor Vines' request to join



hands in witnessing to Las Vegas. That is the reason that there is a Southern Baptist Convention. Perhaps with the doing of it in Las Vegas we can get back to our reason for having a convention.

We have not changed so much since 1979. The presidential candidates are still selected in small group meetings as they were in the earlier days. The difference is that now they are known in advance. Perhaps that is better, and we may never go back to the earlier system.

What we need to do, however, is quit believing it when we are told that there are theological differences among us. Any that are found in the great mass of Southern Baptists are minor. The major differences, if any, are to be found only in a small group of people who are on the extreme edges of Southern Baptist life.

Let's let them go on with whatever differences they might have while we go on with our endeavor to provide a Christian witness for everyone in the world.

Baptist beliefs . . .

Security of the believer (II)

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"It is impossible . . . if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance." — Hebrews 6:4, 6

Hebrews 6:1-6 is perhaps the most difficult passage in the Bible to interpret. Those who believe that you can be saved and lost again see it as supporting that view. But does it?

In my book on Hebrews I see Hebrews as an allegorical interpretation of the Exodus epic. This passage relates to Numbers 13-14. At Kadeshbarnea Moses sent 12 men to spy out the land of Canaan. They returned with a glowing account. But 10 said they were unable to take the land. Only Caleb and Joshua said they could.

Accepting the report of the 10, Israel rebelled against Jehovah, refusing to enter Canaan. They even sought to return to the bondage of Egypt. But God said they could not, since they were his redeemed people — redeemed out of Egyptian bondage. Instead, all over 19 years of age would wander in the desert until they died. He would take a new generation into Canaan. The next day the tribal leaders told Moses they had changed their mind and attitude (the meaning of "repent") and were ready to enter Ca-

naan. Moses said they could not for God had already decreed.

The author of Hebrews warns his readers to avoid the mistake of their forefathers. The theme of this passage is not "Don't forsake Christ to return to Judaism and thus lose your salvation." It is "Let us go on unto perfection" or the fulfillment of their destiny as a people to bring a lost world to Christ. If, like Israel, they rebel against God, they are still his redeemed people. But they will wander in the desert of wasted lives.

High court rejects employee's religious discrimination claim

WASHINGTON (BP) — An employee who claimed he was fired for religious reasons has lost his appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a one-line order, the high court refused to review Larry Blalock's claim he was fired as a sales representative with an Ohio metal

fabricating company because of religious discrimination.

A trial court ruled Blalock would have been discharged "absent the impermissible factor of religious discrimination." The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision. (87-1830, Blalock v. Metals Trades Inc.)

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Hymns Baptists sing . . .

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"

By William J. Reynolds

Those who have visited the Middle East and have seen the Jordan River where it is a narrow, fordable stream may wonder about the phrase "stormy banks," as applied to this river. With its sources at the foot of Mount Herman, 1,800 feet above sea level, the Jordan River is 223 miles long. However, the actual distance between its sources and the Dead Sea, 1,292 feet below sea level, is only 124 miles. Seasonal conditions in that area and the sharp decline of the river bed downstream make for rapid currents and sometimes "stormy" conditions.

Sammuel Stennett wrote the hymn in 1787, and borrowed the scene from the Old Testament account of the Children of Israel crossing the Jordan River into Canaan, the promised land (Joshua 3:1-17). Stennett paints a word picture of the Christian gazing into the future and anticipating the joy of life beyond the grave — the promised land.

For almost 40 years before his death in 1795, Stennett ministered to the Baptist congregation that met in Lit-

tle Wild Street, Lincoln's Field, London. He was highly respected in the city and used his strong influence in both religious and political circles in support of religious freedom.

Part of the popularity of "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" may be attributed to the Southern folk tune in which it is sung. It appeared in William Walker's Southern Harmony, a "fasola" tunebook published in 1835. Walker, a singing school teacher who lived in Spartanburg, SC, was a devout Baptist layman whose music influence extended far beyond his native state.

William J. Reynolds is professor of Church Music at Southwestern Seminary.

We're not sure which worries us most — the end of the world or the end of the month.

There's always an easy solution to every human problem — neat, plausible, and wrong.

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Editor Don McGregor
Associate Editor Tim Nicholas
Assistant Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Coordinator Evelyn Keyes
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Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Gilberts plan return to Panama on Friday

By Tim Nicholas

After a calm week, reports Art Tolston of the Foreign Mission Board, missionaries in Panama were attempting to return to work outside the U.S.-protected Canal Zone in Panama.

Mission Chairman Jackie Cooper told Tolston that he would try to return his ministry to normal over this past weekend.

National elections in Panama were nullified by Gen. Manuel Noriega's government on May 10 following bloody confrontations between vigilantes linked to the government and opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential candidates.

At press time, members of the Organization of American States were to be meeting with Noriega.

The results of that meeting will determine whether Missionaries James and Dottie Gilbert of Mississippi will be returning to that country on Friday.

Gilbert told the Baptist Record he

holds plane reservations to return to work tomorrow and is hopeful things will have cooled off.

He said the Assembly of God missionaries were told by their supervisors to leave the country for Costa Rica. Southern Baptist missionaries have the option of leaving when they feel the need, unless the State Department orders an evacuation.

Some Southern Baptist missionaries were sent to the Canal Zone on a just-in-case basis. The Gilberts and another couple returned to the States briefly.

Gilbert said it was not fair to families to have the Gilberts visiting them during the unrest. "For example, the military came into one of our churches and ordered all the people out and the doors locked."

Evening church meetings and associational meetings have been cancelled for the time being, he said.

He said he felt personally safe in Panama, but that he believed "our physical presence could have been a hindrance rather than a help," he said.

SBA seminary board elects Ashcraft acting president

By Marv Knox

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Morris Ashcraft, former faculty dean at Southeastern Seminary, has been elected acting president of the seminary to be started by the Southern Baptist Alliance.

Ashcraft, of Wake Forest, N.C., was elected during a spring meeting of the seminary's provisional board in Richmond, Va., site of the new seminary, tentatively called Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

The seven-member board also adopted a mission statement for the school and elected Mary Strauss, of Hagerstown, Md., as its chairperson.

The Alliance is an organization of Southern Baptist moderates. They have vowed to remain in the Southern Baptist Convention but have charged current SBC leaders with rejecting principles and causes they hold dear.

Alliance members particularly have expressed concern about the future of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. In October 1987, Southeastern trustees' new conservative majority altered the way the school chooses its teachers. Ashcraft, President W. Randall Lolley and other faculty and administrators subsequently resigned, citing the policy changes — which they interpreted as ensuring that only biblical inerrantists can be added to the faculty — as their reason.

A proposal to start the Alliance seminary was approved 462-42 during the organization's annual convocation March 1-3 in Greenville, S.C.

Start of the school is contingent on availability of funds, said Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey. He predicted the seminary will need \$500,000 for its first year and that the school would not open before the fall of 1990.

Ashcraft, who will retire as professor of theology at Southeastern Seminary following the spring semester, was elected for "approximately one year, but with no termination date," Hastey said. Ashcraft is on sabbatical leave from Southeastern, and the effective date for his work with the new seminary is May 15.

Hastey outlined several duties for the new seminary president.

"One is to find, identify, and cultivate funding sources. He intends to bring a development officer on board as quickly as possible," Hastey said.

"We have not engaged in any fund-raising activities. We now have just under \$100,000 in cash and pledges for the project."

"He also will have the responsibility for collecting and evaluating potential faculty members."

"He also is engaged in negotiating with Northminster Baptist Church in Richmond about use of some of that church's facilities for the new school."

"Another duty is the ongoing

(Continued on page 4)



Phillip and Terri Bradley

HMB appoints Mississippian

ATLANTA — Prentiss native Phil Bradley and his wife, Terri, were among 53 people appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in February and March.

Bradley will serve as church planter missionary in Villa Hills, Ky. Mrs. Bradley will serve as family and church worker.

A graduate of New Orleans and Southern seminaries, Bradley served as a church planter apprentice in Canyon Country, Calif., from 1984-1986. Mrs. Bradley is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond and New Orleans Seminary. While in college, she was a summer missionary in Pennsylvania. The Bradleys have two children.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 25, 1989

Published Since 1877

About 18,500 expected for Las Vegas meeting

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — About 18,500 messengers will register here for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, according to projections by SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter.

Porter, of Nashville, said: "I anticipate about 18,000 to 18,500 messengers will register. I cannot conceive registration will go over 20,000, but would not be surprised if it drops to near 15,000."

He bases his projections on the "long distance to Las Vegas" from many of the centers of Southern Baptist population, including Southern and East Coast states that normally have high attendance at annual meetings.

The largest convention in the history of the SBC was Dallas in 1985,

when 45,519 messengers registered. Another Texas convention — 1988 in San Antonio — drew significantly less registration, 32,727.

Much of the drop, Porter said, was because Texas and surrounding states — New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana — did not turn out the large numbers to San Antonio. Part of the reason, he said, is the Dallas convention was swelled because many churches are within 200 miles of the city, increasing the one-day, drive-in vote.

"We will not have many messengers drive in for one-day in Las Vegas, simply because there are not that many churches within easy driving distance," he said.

Porter, who has the responsibility to

register and oversee balloting and vote counting at the annual meeting, said registration will open in Meeting Rooms 1-4 of the Las Vegas Convention Center at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 11, and continue until about 10 p.m.

During the remainder of the week, registration will open at 8 a.m. and close about 10 p.m., except on the last day of the annual meeting, when it will close when demand ceases.

"The best time to register will be a couple of hours after opening," he said.

Messengers will register much easier if they bring properly completed and signed registration cards, available from state convention executive offices, and, in some states,

(Continued on page 4)



Las Vegas Convention Center will be the site of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting when it convenes in the Nevada city June 13-15. Between 15,000 and 20,000

Southern Baptists are expected to attend the event. (BP photo courtesy Las Vegas News Bureau)

Annie offering increases; trustees concerned with CP

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board expressed enthusiasm about potential increases in the 1989 Annie Armstrong offering for home missions and concern about projected decreases in Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funding.

During the May meeting of the agency's executive committee, Home Mission Board Executive Vice President Bob Banks reported \$9.41 million had been received for the 1989 Annie Armstrong Offering as of May 9.

That is an increase of \$1.9 million, or 27 percent, over the amount received by the same date last year, he said. It also is the largest amount receiv-

ed by that date since 1982. The goal for this year's offering is \$39 million.

HMB President Larry Lewis said he remains concerned about proposals from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to establish a new Religious Liberty Commission.

He also voiced concern about the budget that would reduce the amount of money flowing to missions through the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified giving plan.

Lewis said he is encouraged by Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines' request that the SBC Executive Committee not bring the Religious Liberty Commission proposal before the denomination's annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.,

June 13-15.

The Cooperative Program budget proposed by the SBC Executive Committee for 1989-90 would channel almost \$1 million less to the Home Mission Board than the current budget, Lewis explained. That shortfall is due, in part, to an effort to eliminate debt on the four-year-old SBC Building in Nashville.

The budget, however, does not yet include funds for the Religious Liberty Commission.

"This reduction is almost intolerable in a time when we need to expand our missions efforts," he said. "I would hope something might occur that would cause the Executive Com-

(Continued on page 4)



Board holds retirement dinner for Kelly

The convention board last week held a retirement dinner for Earl Kelly who retires as executive director-treasurer of the MBCB this summer. It was a lighthearted affair with Dennis Swanberg of Arkansas delivering a comic routine. The board gave Kelly a grandfather clock and Marjorie Kelly a pearl bracelet. The Executive Committee voted to give Kelly a 1989 Oldsmobile 98. The car, costing \$19,215.50, was purchased out of the board's Fund Balance after bids were taken. Of the five

bids, Vickery Chevrolet and Oldsmobile of Greenville, was the lowest. The serious portion of the program included several people whose lives were influenced by Kelly spoke. They included, top left, Marjorie Kelly; top right, Mrs. Pattie Dent; bottom left, Dorene Douglas, whom Kelly led to the Lord at Ridgecrest Church, Jackson; and bottom right, Clifton Perkins, retired from the convention board staff. (Tim Nicholas photos)



Seminary elects Ashcraft

(Continued from page 3)
negotiation with the chief academic officers of the three schools in the Richmond Theological Center (the School of Theology of Virginia Union University, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and Presbyterian School of Christian Education) with a view toward application of our school at the appropriate time to become a fourth member . . . They are ready to approve us.

"One other major area of responsibility will be making the proper application for accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Our primary accreditation as a theological institution would be through ATS, and we would apply to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools later."

Ashcraft is a native of Arkansas and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also has done postgraduate study at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He taught at Southern Seminary, 1950-58; Furman University in Greenville, 1958-59; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., 1959-81; and he began his

tenure as academic dean and theology professor at Southeastern Seminary in 1981.

The Alliance seminary's new mission statement says:

"The purpose of the seminary is to provide advanced theological education and training for effective leadership in the various ministries of the church for those men and women who are called and committed to Christian ministry.

"As a community of learners committed to God as revealed in Jesus Christ, the seminary is dedicated to the following principles:

— "The seminary will be distinctively Baptist in terms of heritage and will be racially and gender inclusive with an ecumenical commitment and a global perspective.

— "The seminary, while stressing classical theological disciplines, will be open to new avenues of education and will include in its curriculum opportunities for hands-on practice in ministry.

— "The seminary, while seeking excellence in scholarship, will provide for and encourage the spiritual growth of its faculty, staff and students.

— "The seminary, in the development of faculty and staff, pledges itself to seek and maintain balance in gender and race."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Crime Stoppers add \$1,000 to Richland reward

Crime Stoppers of Jackson has added \$1,000 to a reward offer relating to arson and a burglary at First Church, Richland.

The church on Highway 49, south of Jackson, has about \$225,000 worth of damage done to its facilities, according to Dale Sauls, minister of education. Burglars stole equipment and set about 35 fires on March 19.

The city of Richland is offering \$2,500 for information concerning the burglars and Crime Stoppers is offering \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Those with information may call Crime Stoppers at 355-8477.

Workshop for organists is planned

An Allen organ workshop will take place on June 3, 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Madison United Methodist Church, Madison. Billy Trotter, head of the organ department of Mississippi College, will be guest speaker. Emphasis will be placed on organ registration and service music for all denominations. All interested parties should contact the church organ group 981-9590 for more information and reservations. There will be no charge for this workshop.

Annie Offering increases

(Continued from page 3)
mittee or the convention to rescind that action.

"We're facing a tough budget crunch over the next decade if something isn't done."

Lewis reported that the current Home Mission Board budget already has been reduced by \$6.6 million, in accordance with a previously announced plan to reduce the budget by 9.6 percent. The reductions are necessary to prepare for the projected decrease in funds available, he said.

Board members discussed several options concerning the SBC Executive Committee's proposed Cooperative Program budget, which must be approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Gene Bowman of Griffin, Ga., suggested that the HMB request the SBC Executive Committee to reconsider its proposed budget. After discussion, a substitute motion was approved asking a special committee to study the issue and bring a recommendation to the HMB executive committee's June 6 meeting.

A pivotal point of the discussion was

the SBC Executive Committee's proposal to divert half of any excess CP funds over the basic budget to capital needs projects. HMB trustees particularly noted the "priority item" of \$2.5 million to pay off in one year the remaining debt on the SBC Building.

Board members expressed concern that funds would be diverted to pay off mortgages while missions expenditures were cut. The group noted that the Home Mission Board has been in its current building more than 20 years and still has an outstanding mortgage.

In other matters, the HMB executive committee approved 10 new missionaries. Lewis also reported that HMB employees, families, and retirees soon will begin a 12-hour-per-day, five-day-per-week intercessory prayer ministry.

Prayer rooms will be set aside in each of the board's main buildings in Atlanta, he said.

"We feel strongly that with that kind of prayer support, we won't face any obstacle that we can't overcome," Lewis said.

Mark Wingfield writes for the HMB.

18,500 expected at Las Vegas

(Continued from page 3)
from associational offices, Porter said.

"I ask that messengers use cards that have in the lower left corner the words, 'Revised 1987' or 'Revised 1988,' I urge that all cards with the words, 'Revised 1967' be destroyed," he said. "The revised cards are used to make the tabulating process more efficient."

After messengers are elected by their churches, the cards need to be filled out in detail, including information on the number of members of the church, the amount the church contributed to convention causes, and the total number of messengers elected.

"Each church needs to carefully follow the messenger requirements and restrictions in Article III of the SBC Constitution," Porter said. "The requirements are printed on the cards, as is the criteria for determining the number of messengers to which a church is entitled."

The constitution specifies that "each church which is in friendly cooperation with the convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceeding been a bona-fide contributor to the convention's work" is

entitled to one messenger.

A church is entitled to an additional messenger for each 250 members or \$250 contributed to the work of the convention, up to a maximum of 10. The constitution also specifies messengers "shall be a member of the church by which he is elected."

Messengers who do not present properly completed and signed messenger cards must go before the Credentials Committee, chaired this year by Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala. If cards were not available, messengers may bring a letter on the church letterhead, but still will have to go before the committee.

If neither a card nor a letter is available, telegrams may be sent to the Credentials Committee.

When messengers register, they will receive a set of ballots "which must be used by that messenger and that messenger alone." Messengers also will receive a program booklet and have the opportunity to purchase — for \$4 — the "Book of Reports" which includes reports from all SBC agencies and many of the recommendations to be presented to the convention.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will dedicate building

Terry Road Church, 5751 Terry Road, Jackson, will dedicate its new church building, May 28, in the morning service. Featured music will be by the choir of Hillcrest Church, Jackson. Don McGregor, editor of the Baptist Record, will bring the morning message.

The church was organized Feb. 14, 1988, and affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Oct. 30, 1988, and has completed a \$300,000 church plant.

A Sunday School class, for visitors, will be taught by the pastor on that day, in the new auditorium at 10 a.m.

A home grown tomato sandwich dinner will be served in the new fellowship department at noon. Henry Bennett is pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

May 28- Camp Staff Orientation;
June 4 Central Hills Retreat (BRO)

Urgent! Help needed!

Two volunteers are still needed to go to Argentina July 9-23. The assignment is to teach VBS to missionary children. The cost is \$1,300.

Anyone who could participate in this volunteer mission project, may call Monica Keathley at 968-3800 immediately.

This project is sponsored by Mississippi WMU.

To you, Bill Causey who has ministered to us
over the years, we can't thank you enough.
But we can certainly try.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

For almost 26 years Bill Causey has served as our shepherd and created a little colony of heaven known as Parkway Baptist Church.

We now commit him to the entire Mississippi Baptist family.

Will you join us and pray for him as he leads all Mississippi Baptists to a higher commitment in serving Jesus Christ.

Your Church Family . . . Parkway Baptist Church

Devotional

Remember his sacrifice

By Bob Rogers

Memorial Day is just another Monday off from work for some people — at most, it is a long weekend to enjoy. However, for those who lost a loved one in war, Memorial day is a day to put a flag on a grave and to remember a life given so that our nation could be free.

American soldiers died on the fields of battle for the freedom of all Americans, but they are most remembered by those who knew them personally.

My father was a chaplain in the U.S. Army, and was serving in Vietnam when President Nixon ordered our troops to invade Cambodia. Dad went into Cambodia with his unit and came out without injury. I remember as a boy in the sixth grade, taking a map of Cambodia to school to show my friends where my dad was, and none of my schoolmates cared. What did Cambodia have to do with them? Their fathers were not over there.

Rogers

Even though I do not personally know any soldiers who died, I can understand how it feels to be concerned about our soldiers when most people do not care. It makes me want to shake them and say, "Don't you realize the sacrifices that have been made for you?"

Jesus Christ made the greatest sacrifice for you and me when he willingly gave his life on the cross. He made that sacrifice for everybody. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that he gave . . ." But not everybody knows Jesus personally, and not everybody cares.

Until you know a soldier personally, Memorial Day may not mean much to you. Until you have a personal faith in Christ, his death on the cross may not mean much to you, either.

You have every reason to have a personal faith in Christ, because he died for you personally. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (NIV).

This Memorial Day, remember the Lord Jesus' sacrifice for you, and if you have not made a personal commitment to him, do it now. You see, there is one big difference between the sacrifice of our war dead for our political freedom and the sacrifice of Jesus for our spiritual freedom: everybody in America is free whether they know a soldier or not, but you can only be free from the penalty of sin by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12, NIV).

— Bob Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Baptist musicians prepare to "sound word, share love"

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — "Sound His Word . . . and Share God's Love" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference here, June 11-12.

Musicians from across the Southern Baptist Convention are expected to convene at College Park Baptist Church for their 33rd annual conference, to be held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, also here.

"Since we're meeting in Las Vegas, we're going to focus in on the part-time music minister — the bivocational music minister — and give him a Musicians-on-Mission conference," said conference President Hugh T. McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Seminary.

"Whereas our conference in San Antonio, Texas, (in 1988) was beaming in on the larger church, we're beaming in on several sessions on small churches and on how a small church can develop a music ministry."

For example, the meeting will include a panel discussion on music ministry in the small church, he said, adding that other discussion sessions will focus on equipping ministers of music in small churches.

"We're also missionary, and the 'Sound His Word' (portion of the theme) means singing and playing instruments and doing things to share the gospel," McElrath added.

"Another focus is worship," he said, noting Paul Duke, pastor, and Mark Lawson, minister of music, of Kirkwood Church, Kirkwood, Mo., will "demonstrate how a pastor and minister of music can work together in worship."

"We're also dealing with tensions in church music," McElrath said.

"We'll look in the area of praise in worship, such as the use of choruses, in contradistinction to use of classic hymnody." Conference sessions will include presentations dealing with both approaches.

"We have a lot of tensions in church music," he said, "and we're trying to cover all the bases and support music ministry in all the churches."

The meeting also will feature racial and ethnic diversity, with program personalities hailing from various backgrounds, McElrath noted.

The conference will feature concerts by the Singing Illinoisans, who are from churches in Illinois; Max D. Lyall, pianist and professor of church music at Golden Gate Seminary; the Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble, directed by Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music; the youth handbell choir from First Church, Birmingham, directed by Norman Johnson, minister of music; the youth choir of First Church, Garland, Texas, directed by Duane Blakley, minister of music; soprano soloist Henrietta Davis of Oakland, Calif., accompanied by Lyall; and the Golden Gate Seminary Chapel Choir, directed by Richard Lin, professor of church music.

Panel discussion topics will be "Revitalizing Praise and Worship" and "Planning Creatively for Worship."

Special-interest conferences will focus on "Music in the Small Church," "Teaching Choir Members to Read Music," "Building/Maintaining a

Strong Youth Choir," "Handbells and the Small Church," "Learning from Small-Church Music in Africa," "Creative Approaches to Hymn Singing," "Perspectives on Choral Materials and Methods" and "The Uses of Electronic Music in the Church's Outreach."

The organization's three professional divisions will have separate meetings. The divisions and their programs are: local church, "Religious Banners," led by Jim Whitmire, minister of music at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; denominational, "Re-thinking Associational Music," led by Danny R. Jones, associational music specialist with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department in Jackson, Miss.; and educational, "Computer-Assisted Music Instruction," led by W. Daniel Landes, assistant professor of music at Belmont College in Nashville.

The meeting will conclude with a tribute to Mary June Tabor, associate music director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, who is retiring as the conference's secretary-treasurer after 20 years.

Tomorrow will simply be an extension of today, and likely won't be any better or worse than today unless we make it so.

One of the hardest things to take and one of the easiest things to give is criticism.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

No fit masters

Editor:

Lamar Wray posed this question to readers of the Baptist Record: If racism is a sin, why didn't Jesus make at least one statement against it while he was here?

To begin with, Christians don't have to have a direct statement from Christ in order to see something as wrong. In the Gospel we see no mention of abortion, narcotic drugs, or child abuse, yet we can easily make wise decisions about whether or not to be involved in them.

But I believe Jesus did speak against racial prejudice. In Luke 10:25-37 we see a man who knew that the Law said to love his neighbor, but he wanted to know who was his neighbor. Which people did he have to love, and which ones did he not have to bother with? Jesus answered him with the parable of the good Samaritan. The strength of this parable lies in the fact that the Samaritans were a race of people hated by the Jews.

God did not limit his revelation to us to just the words of Christ quoted in the Gospels. The whole Bible is God's message to us, and I believe the following verses also speak to us concerning racism: 1 Samuel 16:7; Romans 10:12; Galatians 3:28; and James 2:1.

Another reason racism is a sin is that you cannot be racially prejudiced and humble at the same time. C. S. Lewis had this to say: "Aristotle said that some people were only fit to be slaves. I do not contradict him. But I reject slavery because I see no men fit to be masters."

Barbara Flores
Biloxi

Help for military students

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 28 and 29 as new basic cadets. We would like to meet their planes, provide lodging and transportation, and take them to the academy at the required time.

Many will arrive on June 28 and will need a place to stay overnight. The BSU will provide free lodging, therefore saving the cost of a motel. We would also like to meet those coming on June 29 and provide them transportation to the academy. This is an opportunity to meet some smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning basic cadet training.

If pastors, parents, friends, or the new cadets themselves will contact us with name, address, and telephone, we will correspond with them to secure

flight arrival times and provide further information.

The Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union is a widely recognized organization and is here for the purpose of contributing to cadets' spiritual growth. Through the support of our Home Mission Board, Colorado Baptist General Convention, and Pikes Peak Association, the BSU provides a most active and effective ministry. We seek to minister to cadets through involvement in Bible study, discipleship training, church participation, worship, and mission endeavors. We invite all new incoming cadets to join with us.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919, (719) 599-9094. Also, for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy, similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520, (914) 534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 263-0963.

Dwain Gregory
Director of Students and
Military Personnel
Air Force Academy

No prejudice approval

Editor:

I have just read the most incomprehensible letter I have ever seen in any paper anywhere. Lamar Wray wrote, "If racism is such a great sin, being ranked with drug abuse and pornography, why didn't Jesus Christ make at least one statement against it?" [Letters to the Editor, April 27, 1989].

As I recall Jesus did not make a single direct statement against drug abuse or pornography or any of a hundred other destructive and sinful practices. He did say, "Whoever shall be angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment." That applies to using the color of one's skin as a reason to hate. And, if the Word of God spoken through the Apostle Paul means anything, Galatians 3:26-29 reads, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

To even imply that Jesus would give his approval to racial prejudice is inexcusable.

In a world torn apart by hatred and violence, Christians are called to stand up and make a difference. We can start by divorcing ourselves from such damaging philosophies and working together to repair the damage that they have caused.

Brad Roderick
Westfield, MA

Call for help

Editor:

The Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, alerts Baptists to a confidence game being worked on churches nationwide. For several years a young woman named Bobbie Dintino, an escapee from a Utah prison camp, has been portraying herself as either a Mormon missionary or Jehovah's Witness wishing to convert to Christianity. A number

of churches from Florida to Alaska have been deceived into giving her financial aid, lodging, and transportation. Recently she was seen in Alabama. She likely is still in the Southeast.

Please exercise caution if you or your church is approached by any stranger who claims to be a Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, or from another religious group and needs help. The Interfaith Witness Department recommends you call our office before giving aid. Our number in Atlanta is (404) 898-7463.

Tal Davis, Associate Director
Interfaith Witness Department
Home Mission Board, SBC

Grace Church anniversary

Editor:

Grace Baptist Church of Vicksburg, Mississippi, was organized August 20, 1939. We are trying to locate former pastors and members as we plan for our 50th anniversary. We are also seeking information so that we can establish more permanent and accurate records for future generations.

Anyone who has served as pastor or has been a member of this church, please contact Ken Pickens, 636-6991, or write to Route 2, Box 162, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

Ken Pickens
Vicksburg

No man or woman becomes experienced all at once — except when falling in love.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"God gave us Gulfshore"

"God gave us this place, in 1958, to use for his glory . . . Jesus took the disciples on a retreat and asked them two questions: Who do men say that I am? Who do you say that I am? He said to Peter, 'I give you the keys . . . Take my gospel to the world, to the locked hearts of people . . .'" It was May 12, at Gulfshore, and the face behind the microphone was that of Bob Hamblin. He continued, "This ought to be a place where we commit ourselves to take the gospel to the world . . ."

"We are standing in His presence on holy ground . . ." sang Graham Smith.

The dedication of a new wing and staff house at the assembly was a time for fellowship, for remembering, for listening to music, drama, and speeches of extraordinary excellence.

On Friday, the weather was sunny, and the temperature just right. Saturday morning, the rain stayed away until the morning program was over and all of us had almost finished eating our barbecue lunches.

The new wing has doubled sleeping space; the circular dining room is light and airy, its walls mostly of glass, floor to ceiling. The new book store is at a good stopping point on the way to the auditorium. At night, the light of the main buildings forms a brilliant pattern against the dark backdrop of sky and sea.

Already, last summer, the staff house had been in use. In February, Frank Simmons gave W.D. and me a tour of it. The girls' wing is decorated in shades of aqua and rose and the boys' wing in blue and rose. At the center of the house is a multi-purpose area with both living room and kitchen. This room's walls are mostly of natural wood; its skylights can be opened by remote control to let the sea breezes circulate. Pictures of sailboats and seashells adorn the walls of the pale green house perched high off the ground for protection against hurricanes.

James L. Sullivan's Friday night speech was his third dedication address at Gulfshore, this one following ones in 1960 and 1978. "Old preachers never die," he began. "They just stand up and testify." He talked for nearly an hour on "Baptists As I Have Known Them," and I think everyone there would have happily listened for another hour. He said, "We (Baptists) are teamed together, working for Him . . . That's been the wonder of

us . . . working together, pulling together, in finances, organization . . . loving spirit . . ."

Friday afternoon as Jack and Elizabeth Roberts and W.D. and I stood on the fishing pier and looked back toward the buildings, we began trying to remember where the old buildings had stood — the ones that Camille ruined.

During February, March, and part of April, I updated the history of Gulfshore I had written in 1966, *Beside the Point*. I redid the first section and added new chapters. It was like taking a journey backward in time, seeing again at Gulfshore, in my mind, many faces from the past, and remembering the charm of the buildings with red tile roofs, the curve of the steps at the front of the commandant's house, the green of the pines and live oaks and oleanders.

Quite a few people contributed letters and facts that I was able to include in the book. Catherine McCraw of Long Beach, who has worked many years at the Baptist Book Store at Gulfshore, wrote a nice collection of memories. Through no fault of hers, I received it too late to print in the book. I hope to share it through the *Baptist Record* soon.

"God gave us Gulfshore," said Douglas Hudgins during the dedication service in 1960. He had been present at the 1958 auction when Gulfshore was bought from the U.S. government (a drama by Tim Nicholas on May 12, 1989, portrayed this auction). Individual bidders actually gave the top bid that day at the auction. Rumors said that the individuals were a front for a gambling group from Texas who wanted to make this a spa for seaplanes, to take people out to a gambling ship anchored far enough at sea to be outside the limits of the state law. (That was 1958 — not 1989!) The next month, the government privately contacted bidders and asked if they would like to revise their bids upward. Chester Quarles raised the Baptist bid by \$5,000; the individuals did not raise theirs. Hence the Baptists got the property.

Dr. Earl Kelly wrote the Introduction to the new edition of *Beside the Point*. In it he recalls an encounter with God one night on the beach at Gulfshore. The one building left after Camille, the auditorium, had burned. Rebuilding had begun. He was alone as he watched "the moonbeams frolic on the tiny swells of the sleeping Bay of Saint Louis," and to the south the

lightning highlighting thunderheads.

"The turmoil of that distant thunderstorm matched the turmoil of my own mind. Could Quarles's dream, a dream which now had become my dream, ever come to pass? Had those of us who believed in the future benefits of the assembly bitten off more than we could chew? Could we ever recover from the series of setbacks we had suffered? I desperately needed assurance from the only One who could make it happen.

"His assurance came in a mysterious but common happening on a beach. I turned to look down at the shoreline of Henderson Point and saw tiny waves gurgling with delight as they caressed the beach. Each wave deposited a gift of white sand before returning to the sleep of the deep.

"I have never had difficulty finding God anywhere, but suddenly I felt that God was tabernacled with me on the seashore. His assurance came in a mysterious but common happening. Suddenly, I sensed His answer. God seemed to say, 'It may take time, but like the building of a beach it can be done. Get on with it!' That night I returned to the Powers house with the assurance that the assembly would be completed — the dreams would become reality."

When early this year I saw the new facilities at the assembly, I realized that the prediction Dr. Hudgins had made two days after Camille had proven true: "I have a feeling that the good Lord never allows anything to happen to his people that in it he cannot be his best, do his best, prove his best, and make available his best to those he loves. Out of this, beyond any doubt in the world, somewhere out in the future — I do not know where or when — there will come, pray God, something for His glory that may be even bigger and better than anything we have ever dreamed."

Joan Tyler, president of Mississippi WMU, led in the prayer of dedication. Marjorie Kelly wrote the Litany of Dedication which was read by Jim Futral during May 13 service. It ended with a prayer: "Together, Heavenly Father, we place Mississippi Baptists' Gulfshore Assembly into Your hands. Protect these grounds and these buildings. Help those who faithfully labor here. Bless each person who comes to seek a closer walk with You beneath these skies, and make us aware today that by Your amazing grace we are standing on Holy Ground."

Reminder about French teens

Since the appeal for homes for teenagers from France for a month, published in this column May 4, twelve families have responded Debbie Gorney reports. She says, "Our need for homes for boys is urgent." The dates are July 9-August 7. This is for Nacel Cultural Exchanges. If interested, and for more information, before June 3, contact Jim and Debbie Gorney, 129 Robin Hood Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180 (phone 636-4609).

Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own.

Thursday, May 25, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Renee Dean and Patricia Nowell

Over 5,000 Mississippi Baptists touched by Bible Drill '89

"Attention!
"Present Bibles!
"Start! . . ."

. . . were the commands ringing out throughout the state of Mississippi during April. More than 2,100 fourth graders through high school seniors progressed to the State Bible Drills at 11 locations across the state.

Several hundred others participated in church and associational drills. When the number of church leaders and parents who coached their children through this scripture training are considered, the number of lives touched by God's Word multiplies to more than 5,000 people.

The massive project of judging this number of participants across the state required the help of some 330 judges, callers, and time keepers.

Renee Dean of West and Patricia Nowell of Soso were judged one and two in the State Youth finals and will represent Mississippi at Ridgecrest and Glorieta for the annual Church Training Conference. Those dates are July 1-7 and July 15-21 respectively.

The runners-up, Mac Haverson Alford, Liberty; Ginger New, Etta; Leah McCorley, Clarksdale; Keith Yates, Philadelphia; Kay Reichenbach, Cleveland; Matt Basden, Brandon; and Dana Kendrick, Petal, will have a trip to the Mississippi Church Training Mini-Week at Gulfshore on July 13-15.

A special conference for Bible Drill leaders will be offered during that conference. For more information on any of the conference topics call the Church Training Office at 968-3800.

Homecomings

Heucks Retreat (Lincoln): May 28; H. D. (Bud) Swindall, former pastor of Heucks Retreat, now at Sandersville Church, Sandersville, message; services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; afternoon song and memorial service, special offering for upkeep of cemetery.

Rock Hill, Hwy. 18, Brandon: May 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; C. C. Caraway, former pastor, morning message; lunch at noon; singing and fellowship in afternoon; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

First, Lambert: May 28; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11:00 a.m.; dinner on grounds at noon; Boyd Smith, minister of education at Moss Point, will preach; Clyde Schiele, pastor, McCarley, music; musicians for the day will be former members Dianne Riley, pianist and Mimi Mehrle, organist; a solo will be sung by Elizabeth Booth, also a former member; J. Courtney Selvy, pastor.

Thornhill, Pelahatchie: May 28; services, 11 a.m. followed by dinner on grounds with afternoon gospel singing at 1:30, featuring Voices of Praise; Tommy Miles, pastor.

Taylor, Taylor: May 28; Frank Mixon, former pastor, will speak at 11; lunch in activities building at noon; singing in afternoon featuring "The Gospel Singers" from Bruce; Marion "Bubba" Dees, pastor.

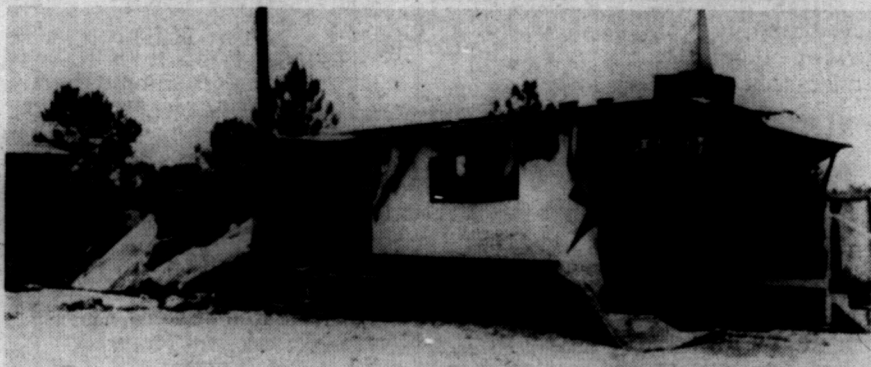
New Hope (Franklin): May 28; first Sunday in new building; beginning at 10:30; Jim Alford, former pastor, message; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon by the Gospel Music Five and the Gospel Travelers.

Goodhope (Perry): May 28; O. H. Petty, speaker; services, 11 a.m. with lunch following; services at 1:30 with featured singers, The Magnolia Boys; David MacIsaac, pastor.

Friendship, Brookhaven: May 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; old-fashioned "dinner on the ground," at noon hour, followed by afternoon service; Talmadge Smith, Brookhaven, guest speaker for both services; Harold Luther Smith in charge of music; Wiley Reid is pastor; all contributions will go to Church Cemetery Fund.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: May 28; regular services; covered dish lunch at noon; afternoon services, 1:30 p.m. with special music and message; David Carter, former pastor, now serving with the Baptist Sunday School board in Nashville, guest pastor; speaking at both services; special offering will be taken for new Building Fund; Jim McIntosh, pastor.

Duffee (Newton): May 28; Gerald Martin, former pastor from Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg, 11 a.m. message; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Friendship Revival singers and youth, music; Steve Avera, pastor.



Bayside Chapel burns

Arson is suspected in the burning of the portable chapel that housed Bayside Church, a mission of First Church, Bay St. Louis. The chapel was completely destroyed and a Sunday School trailer was damaged in the April 27 blaze. The chapel was owned by the Gulf Coast Baptist Association. The congregation is presently meeting in the damaged Sunday School trailer. Robert Cooper is pastor.

Just for the Record



The Girls In Action group at First Church in Cleveland recently held their annual Mother-Daughter banquet. Jo Lynn Davis, senior guard for the Delta State University Lady Statesmen,

spoke to the 41 girls and their mothers at the event. Members of the group range in age from six to 12. Mrs. Myra Kleis is director.



Riverhill Church, Fulton, burned the note on its building on March 19, leaving church debt-free.

Pictured left to right, are Kenneth Gillentine, Thurman Rock, S. E. O'Brian, pastor, and Jay Brown.

Tom Lester (Eb of TV's Green Acres) will speak at First Church, Richland, May 28, at 11 a.m. during the church's Baptist Men's Day program. A special men's choir will also sing under the direction of Curtis C. Hatcher, minister of music.

Lester has spoken at Billy Graham crusades, E. J. Daniels crusades, state youth evangelism conferences in Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Louisiana and more than 1,000 churches across America since Green Acres began in 1965.

Lester, a native of Laurel, resides in Beverly Hills, Calif. Allen H. Stephens is pastor.

Vacation Bible School for two years old through grade 6 will be held at Cedar Bluff Church (Clay), June 12-16, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Clarence Mayo Jr. is pastor.

The person who said talk is cheap never hired a lawyer.

If a bore had invented the telephone, nobody would have answered his call.

Parkhill Church, 4862 McRaven Road, Jackson, will show the Billy Graham film, *Cry From The Mountain*, Saturday night, May 28, at 7 p.m. There is no charge but a love offering will be taken at the end of the service. Barry Swartz is the pastor.

Olivet Church, Gulfport, recently celebrated a note burning for its main sanctuary which was built in 1974. Pictured, left to right, are Samuel Ray Henry, pastor; Bobby Perry, association director; and Bob Dyess, chairman of deacons.



Poplar Springs Church, Copiah Association, recently dedicated its debt-free fellowship hall. Members of the building committee participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony are, left to right, Edwin Anderson Jr., Wayne Gandy, Mrs. Wayne Gandy, Mrs. W. B. Campbell, Charles Dewitt, and Teddy Whittington,

chairman. Also pictured are Hubert Greer, minister of music; W. E. Hamilton, senior deacon; S. L. Jasper, senior deacon; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln-Copiah Association; Vance Dyess; and James Berch, pastor.



Friendship East Church, Charleston, recently had a note burning. Pictured, left to right, are Raymond Radcliff, Claud Slaughter, Edward Dean Holland, Bim Savage, J. C. Thomas, pastor, Johnny Tharpe, Charles McAtee, and A. Owens.

Assemblies of God mark 75th year

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (EP) — The Assemblies of God, the largest church group of the modern Pentecostal movement, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

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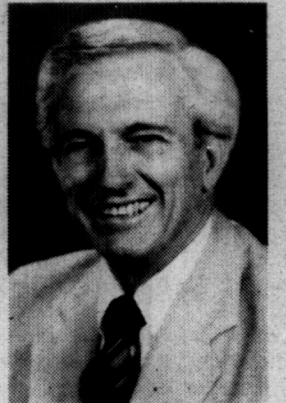
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Thursday, May 25, 1989

Staff changes

First Church, Sardis (Panola Association), has called Charles (Chuck) Smith as minister of music and youth. Smith began May 1, having recently graduated from Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.

Johnny N. Lawrence has accepted the pastorate of Riverside Church, Pascagoula, effective June 14. He is the former pastor of Liberty Church, Thomasville, Ala. He attended Livingston State University.

Jeff Alford, pastor of Sharon Church, Gulf Coast, has resigned to accept a pastorate in north Georgia.

Oakdale Church, Rankin Association, has recently called Danny Berry as pastor. Berry last served in Denham Springs, La. and is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Judy, have two children.

North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, has called Marilyn Porter Smith as minister of music.

Broadmoor, Gulfport, has called David Green as pastor.

Northward Church, Gulf Coast has called Paul Crawley as interim pastor.

Diamondhead Church has called Herschel Sullivan as part-time youth director.

Beech Springs Church, Blue Springs, has called William M. Tate as its pastor. Tate is the former pastor of Forrest Hill Church of Baldwin. He and his family are natives of New Albany. Tate has attended Blue Mountain College and a Baptist college in Springfield, Mo.



Tate



Pictured are Jack Robinson, chairman, Challenge To Build campaign; Don McCleskey, architect; Newell Sullivan, builder; and Allen Thornton, minister of education and youth. In the background are Rachel McKenzie, chairman, building finance committee; Arba Evans, chairman, building committee; Tillman McWilliams, chairman, building planning committee; and Leland Hogan, pastor. Not shown is Thomas Davenport, chairman of deacons.

Carterville Church, Petal, breaks ground for \$1.5 million building project

Carterville Church, Petal, broke ground on May 7 for a new building that will house a sanctuary to seat 990 people, a music suite, and an administration suite. As a part of the project, the present sanctuary will be converted into educational facilities and a chapel.

Planning for the new facility began almost four years ago when the church adopted a report from their Long Range Planning Committee that recommended the new construction.

The report pointed out an average Sunday School growth of nine percent per year for the previous 10 years and found no reason this growth should not continue. It was decided by unanimous vote on Sunday, April 16, to move ahead with the building.

Recently the church completed a three month "Challenge To Build" program at which time the members committed themselves to give approximately one-third of the cost of construction over the next three years.

Revival dates

Berwick, Liberty: May 26-28; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m.; followed by dinner in fellowship building and afternoon service; Landrum Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary and former pastor of Berwick, evangelist; David Leavell, pastor, will lead music; Mrs. Elna Wallace, Centreville, guest pianist.

County Line, State Line: May 28-June 1; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., James "Pete" Pearson, pastor, Sardis Church, speaker; dinner on grounds, singing in afternoon (no night service); Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Doug Broome, pastor, Calvary Church, Waynesboro, evangelist; Bill Jones, minister of music; Thomas Balch, pastor.

Johnson Creek (Greene): May 28-June 2; Sunday, homecoming, 105th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; singing in afternoon, The Harmony Brothers; Mon.-Fri., services, 7:30 p.m.; Grady-Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association, speaker; Joe Conerly, pastor.

Flag Chapel, Jackson: June 2-4; B. Grey Allison president of Mid America Seminary in Memphis, speaker; services, 7 p.m., Fri. and Sat. and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Sunday.

Senior adult corner

The senior adults (Keenagers) of Trinity Church in Pearl ate at Jerrods Steak House in Mendenhall on April 28.

There were 17 members in attendance including David Manasco, pastor.

The Keenagers have a cookbook "Keenager Kookery" which has allowed them funds for special occasion.

Smyrna, Hazlehurst: May 28-31; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., covered dish dinner scheduled for noon in fellowship hall, followed by afternoon Hymn Sing; Vann Windom, pastor, Highland, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Mrs. Denise Windom, guest soloist; Millard D. Mackey, pastor.

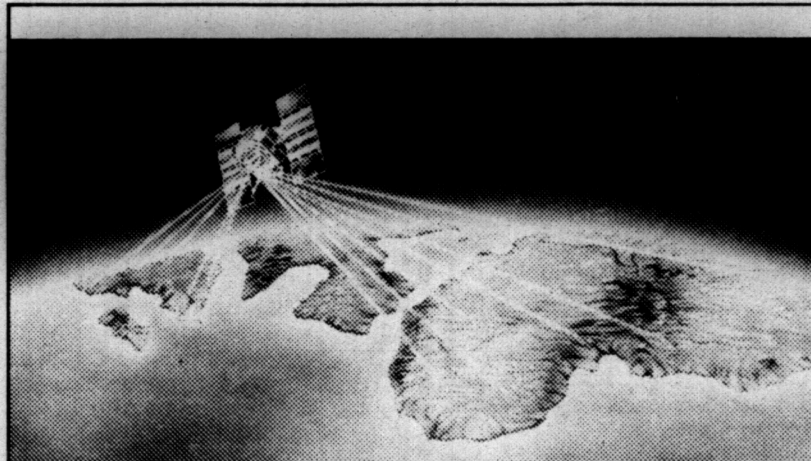
Resisting temptation is usually just a matter of putting it off until nobody's looking.

Names in the news

Mrs. Joyce Carlisle, secretary, Big Ridge Church, Biloxi, had a close call when a trailer broke loose from a truck and ran through the wall of the church office. She suffered some injury, but is now back on the job.



Robert O. 'Red' Bowen (left) was licensed to the gospel ministry, March 12, by Lizana Church, Gulfport. Gerald H. Walker (right) is pastor.



Pray for Mission '89.

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"This is our ministry's most extensive opportunity ever. We are reaching millions and the individuals that comprise those millions."

Billy Graham

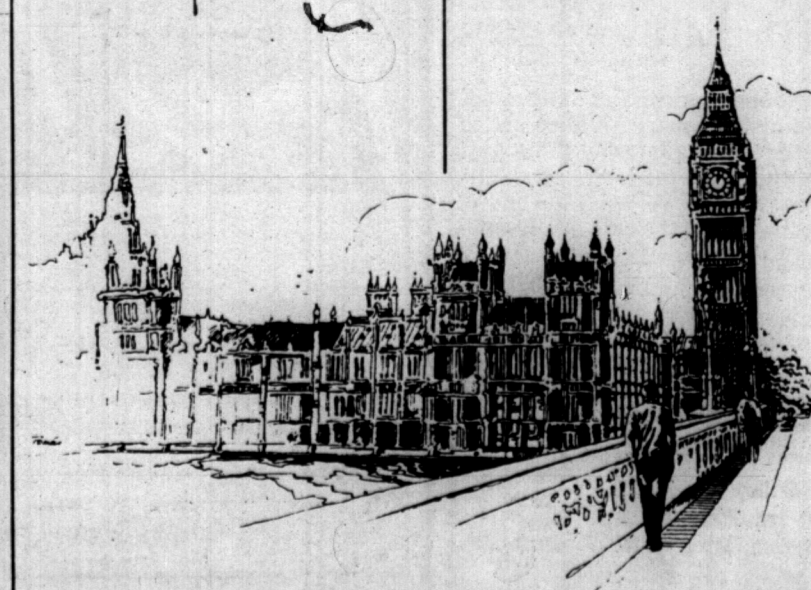
Pray for those viewing this gospel presentation in more than 200 cities and villages in Great Britain.

For several weeks, the Graham Team will be preaching and teaching throughout Great Britain. Please pray for primary meetings in three London locations: West Ham Football Ground June 14-16, Crystal Palace Athletics Stadium June 21-23, Earls Court Arena June 26-July 1.

Also pray for Livelihood satellite transmissions showing the Earls Court meetings live in over 200 locations throughout the U.K. and Ireland.

Uphold the cooperating churches and the believers at all 200+ sites to be used to bring many to the Savior through counseling and follow-up. Pray for Christians to be bold in inviting others to the meetings.

Finally, pray for Mission '89 to create wide awareness of salvation in Jesus. Pray for clear proclamation of the Gospel and the spiritual and physical strength of the Billy Graham Team and volunteers.



Pray for the programs shown on TV networks in 23 African countries at prime time.

Livelihood will also take the Earls Court meetings to African TV networks for live or delayed video-taped showings. Pray for the African churches and volunteers who are training for these meetings by TV. Pray for wide viewing and receptivity to God's word presented in many homes and languages. Pray for the translations and for those answering phone and mail inquiries. The Lord has opened such a unique opportunity! For many of these networks, mostly state-owned, this is a first, especially during prime time.



Pray for Mission '89 - the most extensive evangelistic endeavor in the history of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Pray that this Mission may be used to reach millions, and that Mr. Graham, at the peak of his ministry, will have the strength and wisdom to lead this endeavor.

Hundreds of thousands may be delivered out of false religions and unbelief, not by meetings or messages, but by God's Spirit in response to prayer. Thousands are already praying. We need your prayers.



Please join with us. Your prayers mean the world to Mission '89.

Mission '89

Priesthood, preaching to be themes of Forum

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — "Priesthood of the Believer" and "Preaching of the Gospel" will be themes of the Southern Baptist Forum during its sixth annual session here this summer.

The Forum will be held June 12, beginning at 8:45 a.m., at the Cashman Field Complex Theater. It is one of more than a dozen conferences held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, set here for June 13-15.

"We're trying to be positive and offer a 'meaningful Monday' — something beneficial and worthwhile for people in Las Vegas that day," said Peter Rhea Jones, chairperson of the Forum's steering committee and pastor of First Church, Decatur, Ga.

Morning speakers are Molly Marshall-Green, associate professor of theology at Southern Seminary, and Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark. Al Staggs, pastor of First Church, Portales, N.M., will present a dramatization based on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and martyr.

"We plan to defend and extol the Baptist conviction — the priesthood of the believer," Jones said. Marshall-

Green and Harbour will address the doctrine directly, and Staggs' performance will illustrate the doctrine by depicting the way Bonhoeffer stood up to Nazi extremism, he added.

Afternoon speakers are Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta; Clyde Fant, chaplain at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla.; and Robert Schuller, television minister and pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.

"Doctors of preaching" Fant and Craddock particularly will speak to the theme, Jones said. Fant has written numerous textbooks and co-edited a definitive multi-volume compilation of great sermons, and Craddock has delivered the Lyman Beecher Lectures on preaching at Yale University and is one of the most noted preachers in the country, he reported, adding that Schuller is one of the nation's most well-known preachers.

Special music will be performed by Cynthia Clawson, a Grammy Award-winning gospel artist from Louisville; the Southern Seminary Vocal Ensemble; and Bob Bailey, a singer/songwriter from Nashville.

Campus ministers to look forward

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptist campus ministers will look to the future when they convene here, June 11-12.

"Going, Weeping, Sowing, Reaping — Looking Toward 2000" will be the theme for the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers annual meeting at First Southern Baptist Church. The meeting is one of more than a dozen conferences scheduled in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also meeting here, June 13-15.

"We are seeking to set up a motivation for our campus ministers in the area of personal concerns on campus, as well as expanding our vision for world evangelism," said Hal C. Burke, president of the association.

The association will hear from Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, who will speak on "The Future of Student Ministry," said Burke, director of Baptist campus ministry at Florida State University.

"I remember hearing Kenneth Chafin (pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.) say, 'It's time we quit doing everything for everybody and start doing something for somebody.' Therefore, my desire is that we help ourselves as individual

campus ministers and hopefully for that to ripple out to other campus ministers — this burden for the lost people, particularly in our area.

"We can't take on the whole world, but our mission fields are our campuses."

The conference will feature "professional pilgrimages" told by campus ministers from across the country, Burke said.

In addition to Elder, keynote speakers will be Glenn Saul, ethics professor at Golden Gate Seminary, who will address "Ethical Issues for the '90s," and Al Staggs, pastor of First Baptist Church of Portales, N.M., who will portray German pastor/martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer looking at "Life in the Church Today."

Worship leader will be Scott Walker, pastor of First Church, Charleston, S.C.

A banquet will feature Tommy Starkes, pastor of Tropicana Baptist Fellowship in Las Vegas, and local Christian entertainers.

The conference also will include small-group seminars on loneliness, human sexuality/homosexuality, a theological update, "stages of faith," and an orientation for new campus ministers.

Artists will meet in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Southern Baptists interested in using the arts in Christian service will convene during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here this summer.

The group will meet Wednesday, June 14, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 21 in the South Exhibit Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The meeting will be hosted by the Center for Religion and the Arts at Southern Seminary; the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and the National Fellowship of Performing Artists of the Southern Baptist

Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

William L. Hendricks, director of the Center for Religion and the Arts at Southern Seminary, said the meeting will serve as a forum to discuss the use of the arts in churches and will "explore the possibility of organizing into a structure that will promote the use of arts in the churches." The meeting is for people interested in any of the various art forms, including visual, musical, dramatic, puppetry, mime, and banner making, he noted.

For further information, contact the Center for Religion and the Arts, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.



Southern chooses alumni of year

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Five graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have been selected as Alumni of the Year at the Louisville, Ky., school.

Four Southern Baptist alumni — Mori Yoshi Hiratani, R. Gene Puckett, Carl F. Whirley and Joe Priest Williams — will be honored at the seminary's annual alumni and friends reunion June 14 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev. An American Baptist alumnus, the late Jitsuo Morikawa, will be recognized posthumously at the seminary's alumni luncheon June 21 during the biennial meeting of the American Baptist Churches, USA, in Milwaukee, Wis.


Hiratani has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearl City, Hawaii, for 31 years.

Puckett has been editor of the Biblical Recorder, news journal for North Carolina Baptists, since 1982.

Whirley retired from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1980 after 33 years of service in Nigeria. After leaving the mission field, he taught at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., from 1980 to 1987.

Williams retired last year after 27 years as pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Louisville.

Morikawa served with National Ministries for the American Baptist Churches for 20 years, first as director of evangelism and later as secretary of the office of planning and organizational development.



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N.O.B.T.S. alumni luncheon set for Las Vegas

NEW ORLEANS — The annual New Orleans Seminary National Alumni/Friends Luncheon will be held at the Monaco Tower, meeting rooms B, C, and D, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev., at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 14.

Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president, will be the keynote speaker, and national alumni officers will be elected. In addition, Distinguished Alumni awards will be given to Hyram E. Barefoot (BD '52, ThD '55), president of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., for "outstanding leadership in Christian education and administration"; and Carl J. Duck (BD '52), executive director of the Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville, Tenn., for "outstanding church and denominational leadership."

Tickets are \$15, but may be purchased in advance for \$12 by sending the said amount to the Office of Alumni Affairs, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126. Tickets purchased by mail between May 31 and June 10 will await the purchaser at the seminary booth in Las Vegas.

Mrs. Lee Ferrell, pastor's wife, dies

Mrs. Ann East Ferrell, 62, died May 8 at Methodist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She was the wife of M. Lee Ferrell, pastor of Webb Baptist Church, Webb, Miss.

Funeral services were at Webb Baptist Church on May 10 and graveside services in Lakewood Memorial Park, Jackson.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Susan F. Martin of Edmond, Okla.; three sons, Stephen Lee Ferrell of Greenville, Gregory Wayne Ferrell of Memphis, and David East Ferrell of Southaven; a brother; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

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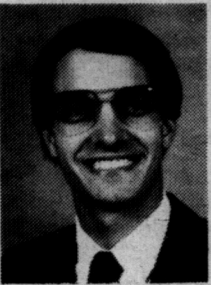
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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

A lesson for believers: Trust God for help

By Greg Martin
Judges 3:5-12

The early chapters of Judges describe the death of Joshua and the backsliding of the nation of Israel. Judges 2:10 tells us after Joshua's



Martin

generation passed away that "another generation arose which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." The book describes how Israel many times would rebel against the Lord, reap God's judgment, repent of their sins, and experience deliverance by the hand of a spirit-empowered judge.

This cycle is repeated no less than twelve times in the book. The judges were not exclusively concerned with legal matters. They were also concerned about the social, political, and spiritual welfare of the people.

The first judge to whom we are introduced is Othniel whose name means "God is might." He was a nephew of Caleb who married Achsah, the daughter of Caleb (1:11-15). From his conquering of the king of Mesopotamia, we learn that we can trust God to provide the means of deliverance when we acknowledge our sin and cry to him for help.

In 3:5-7, we see the specifics of Israel's

LIFE AND WORK

rebellion against the Lord. They entered into marriages with the pagans of the land. Before long they began to serve the gods of Baal and Asheroth. God warned much about interfaith marriages (Exodus 34:16 and Deuteronomy 7:3-4). He knew such unholy unions would eventually lead to his people's forsaking him. One of Joshua's last public addresses spoke to the heart of this warning (Joshua 23:12-13). Nevertheless, God's people played the harlot with the people and gods of the Canaanites, Hittites, Ammonites, Perezites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

There is a lesson in this for modern-day believers. We are not to become so close to the world's way and thinking that we indiscriminately adopt the life-styles of unbelievers. II Corinthians 6:14 commands us not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. This applies to marriages, business practices, and other interpersonal relationships. Jesus said we are to be in the world but not of it. When we get too close with the world, it begins to negatively influence our lives.

The people forgot the Lord (verse 7). However, the Lord didn't forget the nation of Israel. In verse 8, his anger was kindled against

the people's rebellion. His anger was not a quick emotional rage, but rather a continual universal opposition to evil. He disciplined the people of God by allowing Cushan-rishatham, king of Mesopotamia, to rule over them for eight years. The king, whose name means double wickedness, was God's instrument of divine judgment for his rebellious people.

Hebrews 12:4-13 tells us God disciplines those whom he loves. His judgment in our lives because of our sin is an indication that we are his people who are valuable to him.

After eight years of oppression the people cried out to the Lord (verse 9). They didn't turn to the pagan gods of Baal or Asheroth but instead to the one true God. They came to the place where they understood that only he could deliver them. Their cry was not just out of misery but out of repentance and faith. In response God sent the judge Othniel to save them. The implication is that God's rescue came immediately after the cry of repentance and faith.

Perhaps some today need to cry out to the Lord. His ear is attentive to the brokenhearted (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Othniel with the strength of the Lord set out to deliver the people from Cushan-rishatham's oppression. It was the Spirit of God that empowered him (verse 10).

From this we can learn that God uses human agents to accomplish divine tasks. Therefore, we need to trust in the Lord, be available to his leadership, and give him glory for his deliverance.

After the people were delivered, they experienced God's blessing. They had peace for forty years (verse 11). This was in response to their turning back to the Lord and thus experiencing his deliverance.

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ can bring peace and blessing to those who look to him, even as the nation of Israel did. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

The 12th verse is a sad ending for our lesson; yet it is reality. Like many modern-day believers, these ancient soldiers of the faith forsake the Lord. They again committed evil. The wages of it all was God's turning his people over to the Moabites.

Could it be that you have experienced God's renewal in your life and now you are just beginning to backslide again? Come back before the cycle of judgment and discipline comes upon your life.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

Paul sent to Caesarea

By Bert Breland
Acts 22:30-23:35

Paul's defense before the Jews had been suddenly stopped when he mentioned the fact that God had sent him to the Gentiles. The Jews



Breland

caused such an uproar that the Romans had to take Paul into protective custody. However, his situation really didn't improve much. The Romans were going to find out what had caused the riot by having Paul interrogated while they beat him. After they had stretched him out and prepared him for the scourging, Paul asked the soldier in charge if it were

unlawful to treat an uncondemned Roman citizen in this manner. Paul's question was not a moment too soon. It saved him from this torture. The Romans were forced to find a more pleasant way to get to the bottom of this controversy.

The next day Paul was brought by the Roman commander to the council of the Sanhedrin. Ap-

BIBLE BOOK

parently the commander was hoping he could gain more information and that a rational, peaceful solution could be found. He couldn't have anticipated the trouble that was to follow.

When placed before the council, Paul immediately declared his innocence. This was not well received by the high priest, to say the least, because he had someone hit Paul in the mouth. From Paul's response to this, it appears that it made him furious and he lashed out at the high priest. This doesn't seem too unusual, but what does seem unusual was his response that he didn't know he was the high priest. Some have argued that Paul really didn't know who was high priest at the time. This seems unrealistic for someone so involved in religious life. Some have said that Paul's problem was his poor vision and he didn't recognize him or possibly he didn't notice who had given the command for him to be struck.

Any of these explanations seem weak when

one considers that Paul knew his way around the religious circles and he certainly knew where he was and who was in charge. It seems more plausible that Paul was taking a jab at the high priest with a bit of sarcasm. An interpretation of Paul's sarcasm would be that anyone deserving of the office of high priest wouldn't behave in such a manner. It is difficult for me to judge Paul's action too harshly because Ananias was known as a tyrant and Paul was treated very badly.

The poor treatment that Paul received may also account for the fact that he incited a riot between the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Paul knew there was a strong difference of opinion between these two groups concerning the resurrection of the dead. He also knew if he raised that question that it would take the focus off of him. Paul may have determined that a defense before this group was useless and the best thing to do was to escape.

Paul had to be taken back into protective custody by the Romans; at best his situation was discouraging. It was at this low ebb that the Lord himself appeared to Paul, giving him comfort and guidance. Paul needed to be

reassured that he had done well in the past and given a word of assurance about the future. Meanwhile, Paul's Jewish enemies were plotting to have him killed. It is possible that this group that planned to kill Paul were zealots and that they were using this as an occasion to strike out against Rome and its authority. This kind of behavior from the zealots is not surprising, but it is surprising that they apparently received approval of their plan from the high priest and other high officials within the Sanhedrin. Paul's life was spared when his nephew learned of the plot and warned him of the danger. The fact that Paul's nephew knew of the plot may indicate that part of Paul's own family was involved in the assassination plan.

The Roman commander did not fully understand this situation, but he understood that this man, Paul, was obviously important; he preferred to pass him up the line to a higher authority. Therefore, he provided a heavy guard and sent Paul on to Felix, the governor. God used these pagans to move Paul one step further on his journey with the gospel.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Paul gives guidelines for family life

By Gary G. Berry
Ephesians 5:21-6:4

A Christian family should seek to follow the biblical guidelines for family life. The Christian home is to be different in terms of the attitudes



Berry

which mark the members of the family. William Cowper wrote of the home as "the only bliss of paradise that has survived the fall," but too many homes are more like hell on earth than heaven on earth.

In 5:21 Paul stresses a principle which governs every relationship in the home. Christians are to be submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God. How difficult it is for believers to refrain from throwing their weight around or trying to advance at the expense of another. By nature, men are prone to promote themselves, but the Holy Spirit works to enable Christians to submit themselves, even

UNIFORM

to "esteem others more important than ourselves" (Romans 12:10).

This passage adds clarity to the order God has established for the family. The wife is to submit to her husband (verse 22). The previous verse made it clear that wives are not the only person expected to be submissive. That same spirit should characterize a man. The husband is "the head of the wife" (verse 23). This statement has nothing to do with the idea of male superiority. Paul did not make this statement because he believed the man was smarter or possessed superior abilities. God has guidelines for the family and those guidelines as mentioned here specify the roles of husband and wife. This responsible role for the husband is exercised "as Christ is head of the church" (verse 23). That statement automatically excludes any

attitude of male superiority, arrogance, or boasting.

While some quarrel with the role assigned in this text to the husband, not many argue with the husband's responsibility to love his wife. Husbands are to love their wives sacrificially, even as Christ loved the church (verse 25). Christ died for the church because of his love for her. Therefore, the Christian husband, willing to make any sacrifice for his wife out of love, is called on for the ultimate expression of submission or self-sacrifice. Submission in marriage is a two-way street, even though the husband is to be the "head" of the family. Headship, however, is not dictatorship.

A Christian husband and a Christian wife no longer are two separate selves; they become one. This oneness exists not in terms of identical personalities, but in love, faithfulness, and purpose (verse 28). Whatever either person does to the other, he does to himself or herself. With mutual submission to each other, mutual nurturing of each other, and with mutual submission to the Lord, they will be so satisfied

with each other that temptations will be resisted to look for gratification elsewhere.

The relationship between children and parents is important. This relationship also comes under the lordship of Christ. As an expression of their commitment to the Lord, children are to obey their parents (6:1-3). Parents, on the other hand, are to give their children a Christian rearing (6:4). The discipline and instruction provided by parents to children is to be shaped by the will of God and the Word of God.

Good homes begin before marriage by paying attention to God's guidelines for the family. Many enjoy the bliss of heaven at home because these guidelines have been received and followed by each member of the family. Others hurt, however, due to the failure of a marriage or the rebellion of a child. Hurting believers are to be reminded that the grace of God is never in short supply. Wherever failure has occurred, God's mercy and grace are available and adequate.

Berry is pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg.

Call to China leads to Mississippi coast

By Anne W. McWilliams

After the phenomenal Shantung Revival in China in the 1930s, one Baptist pastor in Greenville, South Carolina, prayed for such a revival in his church. "We had one, just like in the book of Acts!" recalls Susie Melton Henry. One deacon prayed that at least 12 missionaries would go out from that church. For Susie, already feeling a tug toward missions, that revival clinched the decision! God was calling her to China and she would go.

The middle child in a large family in Greenville, Susie had become a Baptist, though her parents went to a Methodist church. She said yes to God's call to foreign missions. Instead, she has spent her life as a missionary to the Mississippi Gulf Coast — as church planter, teacher in a center for retarded children, worker in a youth court, wife of a pastor, T. F. Henry, and mother of a pastor, Ray Henry.

At Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in Georgia, preparing to go to China, she began dating Thomas Frazier Henry. Her friends would tease, "How are you going to take him to China?" and she would reply, "That's in the hands of the Lord." One night, while Henry was speaking at Vespers, his enthusiasm grew until suddenly he said, "I'll do anything the Lord wants me to. I'm willing to go to China if the Lord wants me to!"

Susie was all set to go; already she had received a shower of gifts. Then, on account of the Communists in China, doors to that country closed. Three years after their 1939 graduation, Susie and T. F. got married, on May 3, 1942. Following rescue mission work in Charleston, W. Va., and a pastorate in Mobile, they moved to Gulfport in 1947. In August of that year they began Sunday School and worship service in a tent on Pass Road,

where present-day St. John's High School is, and where once was an orphanage. Their congregation was made up of children.

"I know the Lord sends the rain, but why does he send so much?" the oldest of the two little Henry boys, Tommy, asked. Outside their house at 3003 Hewes Avenue, the September Hurricane of 1947 raged; up the street, it blew away their tent. Then "Everybody's Sunday School" moved into their house. Often on Sunday mornings, as many as 40 children crowded into its tiny rooms. Once, when Henry was to be away for a Sunday, he told his wife she need not conduct services that day, but children knocked and asked, "Aren't we going to have Sunday School?" They did.

Thus Susie helped to plant the first seeds for the Pass Road Baptist Church, begun as a mission of First Church, Gulfport. Henry wanted to start a church, but only if it were the Lord's will for him to do that, his widow remembers. He prayed, "Lord, if you want me to start this church, let it be different. Let it be a place where everybody, the rich and poor, can feel free to come and be saved." Since more than children were needed to build a church, the Henrys prayed that adults might come. Some did.

When they had prayed about finding a church site, in a dream she saw the street sign for F Avenue, with a building across the road. Sure enough, that plot was for sale. Two men, Ralph Case and H. Drye, helped buy the land for \$350.

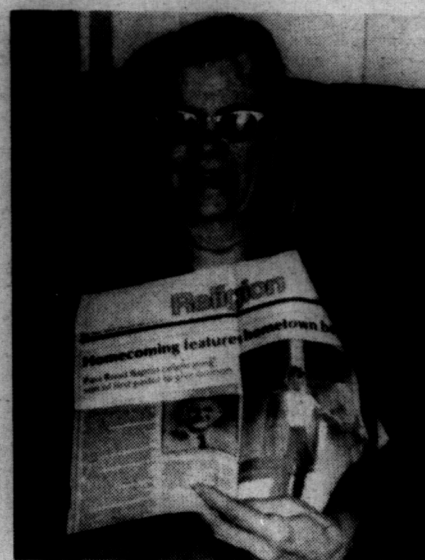
Fire Station Number Two they bought in an auction, as the army sold surplus property from World War II. Kansas friends sent money to help buy that; First Church, Gulfport paid to move the building from Gulfport Field, for the first service Oct. 16, 1949. Mennonites redecored the station.

In 1987, the church reported a resident membership of 895. Susie Henry, Sunday School teacher for 53 years altogether, still teaches senior adults at Pass Road.

Then, quite suddenly, November 30, 1956, T. F. Henry died. An acute attack of pancreatitis resulted in a ruptured pancreas. After his death, Susie remembers, she prayed all night. "I was bitter. I asked, 'Lord, why? He was young and had so many plans.' " Now she had four small boys to support — Tommy, David, Eugene, and Ray. But that night, she recalls, "The Lord said to me, 'I'll take care of you.' " Hence she didn't worry about the bills; she knew the Lord would keep his promise.

Her first job was as director and then as teacher's aide for the Good Samaritan Training Center, a day care center for retarded children. The center opened at the Navy base in 1960. "We didn't have any furniture. We borrowed some and people donated some. . . . In a bus we went from Keesler Field to Pass Christian and back across Back Bay, picking up children." Students with unusual abilities she remembers most, like the one with great artistic talent. "I remember one day she was at the blackboard and she said to me, 'Don't look. I'm not ready for you to look. I'll tell you when you can look.' I kept my head turned for about as long as I could stand it, and then I looked. She had drawn the prettiest picture of a cat nursing kittens. As soon as she realized I was looking, off the board it went."

Once a preacher said to her, "I saw you passing by the other day with those retarded children and all I could do was cry." She answered, "I used to feel that way, but crying doesn't help. You have to stop thinking about what these children can't do and start ex-



Susie Henry displays a newspaper story about Pass Road Church, Gulfport, which she and her late husband, T. F. Henry, started with a Sunday School for children. "Homecoming features hometown boy," the headline says. "Pass Road Baptist celebrating; son of first pastor to give sermon." This was homecoming day September 9, 1984, when Ray Henry preached.

panding on what they can."

Next she took a job at the Harrison County Family Court, as supervisor of children. "Some of the children were abused," she remembers. "It was a mission — working with the court. She would work day and night, three days on and three days off. The court was called the shelter, and for a reason. It was a haven for run-aways, as well as the abused. "Sometimes they had good reason to be run-aways," she said. "I was able to counsel with them and to witness to them. You don't know and you don't realize what's going on in homes until you have worked at a place like that."



Ray Henry

Lots of churches supplied used clothes and tennis shoes for the youngsters at the court shelter; often they didn't fit. On a sewing machine, Susie altered clothes for the children. Once when a baby was left at the court, she could find no extra diapers and resorted to using a pillowcase.

She still lives at 3003 Hewes Avenue. Her oldest son died in California in 1980. David lives in Scotland; Eugene, a lawyer, lives in Biloxi. Ray is pastor of Olivet Church, Gulfport. There are seven grandchildren.

"I believe the Lord sent the Shantung revival to prepare the Christian leaders in China to be strong when the Communists came to take over," she said. "I believe the Lord has a purpose in all that happens to us."

While she was preparing to be a missionary (she thought to China), she was acquiring knowledge and skills that she has used in her years on the Gulf Coast. "I didn't seek the jobs I found here. They came to me. This was my mission."

Unity Church, Jefferson County, will celebrate 100th year

Unity Church in Jefferson County will celebrate its annual homecoming and 100th anniversary on May 28. The speaker for the morning services will be Dalton Haggan. Paul Southerland will be in charge of the music. Dinner will be served after the morning services.

The anniversary celebration will be in the afternoon. Some of the activities will be singing, testimony from former pastors and the reading of the church history.

Hispanic pastors set rally for Las Vegas

ATLANTA (BP) — Hispanic Baptists will gather in Las Vegas, Nev., June 10-12 for door-to-door witnessing, an evangelistic rally and a workshop prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The second annual meeting of Hispanics prior to the SBC will provide a time of evangelistic thrust and professional development among pastors, church staff members and laity, according to Bob Sena, pastor of First Spanish Baptist Church here.

Sena is coordinator of the Southern Baptist Hispanic Ministers Conference, formed to encourage Hispanics to take more active roles in Baptist associations and state conventions.

A group of Hispanics will arrive June 10 to participate in two days of door-to-door visitation in a predominantly Hispanic section of Las Vegas, Sena said. The evangelistic thrust is part of the Home Mission Board's emphasis on reaching Las Vegas homes with the gospel.

More than 500 individuals are expected to attend a "Here's Hope Rally of Celebration" at 7 p.m. June 11 at West Oakley Baptist Church, Sena said.

The following day, about 200 Hispanic ministers and laity will hone their ministry skills at a workshop at First Baptist Church. Theme for the day-long seminar will be "Exalting Christ Through Ministerial Excellence."

Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will host a 12:30 p.m. luncheon for the group. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will host a 7 p.m. banquet, including an ethnic commissioning ceremony for two couples who will serve overseas.

Southeastern grants degrees

Two Mississippians were graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. during commencement exercises on May 13. Jonathan Prentiss Scott Ivy of Brookhaven received the master of divinity with Christian education degree and Lynn Price McWhorter of Conehatta received the master of divinity degree.

SCRAPBOOK

May flowers

In your sunporch, Mama,
Built just the way you planned,
Where we spent happy hours,
I want to share some thoughts with you:

I'm surrounded by God's beauty
In the talent he gave to you
Of turning everything you touched
Into a beautiful flower or plant.

Your Kalanchoes are in full bloom
In deep orange clusters,
And your angel-leaf begonias
Cover a table top in pink.

Your pretty wide-leaf begonias
Are covered in pink shoots,
Next to your airplane plant
With little planes flying around.

The graceful branches of your fern
Hang almost to the floor
From the high chair you used
For my brother and me.

Your Christmas cactus has a way
Of sharing its beauty from day to day
And then, at the Holy Season,
It's a brilliant bouquet of red.

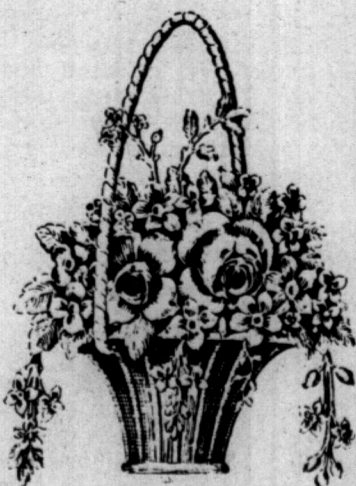
Outside, facing the door,
Your bougainvilleas steal the show
And wave clusters of red
As if saying "Hello" to you.

Your roses to the left,
Tall and stately among the green,
Add abundant beauty in red
To the "woods" by the windows.

To the right by the drive
Your sprawling rose has grown a lot,
Big red roses climb the brick wall,
Just like you wanted them to do.

Just for you, Mama . . .
I try to take good care of them
Because I see you in each one
And, beyond, I see God.

—Ruby Singley, Columbia



Baptist Record

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291 SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
1901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

May 25, 1989

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205